

Downtown Improvement Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2016

1. Call to Order and Welcome

A regular meeting of the Nashua Downtown Improvement Committee was called to order at 7:37 a.m. on February 12, 2016 in Nashua City Hall, Room 208 by Chairman Marylou Blaisdell.

Present: Marylou Blaisdell, John Koutsos, Ben Clemons, Sy Mahfuz, Ron LeFleur, Richard Lannan, Sarah Marchant

2. Approval of December 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes

MOTION MADE BY J KOUTSOS TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM December 11, 2015. SECONDED BY R LEFLEUR AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Downtown Project Update

Public Art is frozen and can't be moved. The committee had a preference for the art to be removed for the winter months and then relaunched in the spring.

- The art sculptures be stored at Arlington St Fire Station for the winter.
- City Arts Nashua is anticipating a May 1st launch to bring the sculptures back to Main Street

Wayfinding and Sign Package RFP is in draft form. An RFP will be finalized and bids will be solicited in the coming weeks. Committee member Ron LeFleur was selected to represent the Downtown Improvement Committee as part of the review team that selects the winning RFP.

4. Other Business

The Committee Chair will send a letter to the Mayor outlining their desired budget. The budget will be formalized for hearing by the Board of Alderman, then Budget Committee. The committee would like the Board of Alderman to hear the Downtown Improvement Committee budget recommendations on February 23rd.

The Downtown Circulator, committee discussed the proposal and feels the circulator bus needs to go into the evening in order to be effective. The committee recommendation is that the bus runs as late as 10:30pm. The intent for the circulator bus running later is to get buy-in from the downtown restaurants in the initiative. Later in the evening allows for more targeted marketing to evening use.

Downtown wayfinding and sign package should include input from the city parking staff in to help educate the committee and staff on the nuances of municipal parking. The downtown Improvement Committee suggests making the parking garages free after 5:00pm.

MaryLou Blaisdell noted that she is reaching out to the downtown restaurants that utilize municipal parking to determine when shift changes occur and if it conflicts with movement of free parking.

A Board of Alderman resolution to create an expendable trust fund for all the downtown allocations is being drafted. The purpose of the resolution is to keep all the funds in one spot outside of the general fund to ensure it is not a victim of budget cuts. The annual Downtown Improvements Committee budget will still be subject to approval by the Board of Alderman. The draft before the Budget Committee on Thursday. The budget for the Downtown Improvement Committee was set up on a calendar year so there was no projected number with the budgeted amount.

Sealing of cement sidewalks on Main Street, Eric Ryder said this was not something transit would typically do. Nick Caggiano noted that Parks and Recreation has a pressure washer and the ability to add the sealant solution to the washer. The city recently completed this preventative application of sealant on the sidewalks in front of the East Hollis Street Fire Station.

DIC – asks what is the maintenance plan for the new sidewalks? All agree that the sidewalks need to be maintained.

Ben Clements is proposing legislation to allow restaurants to stay open to 2am. The belief is that the later closing time helps Nashua compete with nearby towns south of the state line.

The committee discussed the need for millennial representation on the board – Jess at Ja Ja's declined, but the committee feels Chris Johnson may be a good nominee. Marylou will recommend Chris Johnson to the Mayor.

The committee discussed sidewalk snow removal, and feel shop and property owners on Main Street should take some responsibility for snow removal. The committee believes Property / shop owners should be clearing sidewalks and the places where customers can park in front of the stores.

The committee passed along a thank you to Tom Galligani for his service to the Downtown Improvement Committee.

5. Adjournment and Next Meeting

MOTION TO ADJORN THE MEETING MADE BY B MCCARTHY AT 8:35 AM. SECONDED BY R LANNAN AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting will take place on April 8th, 2016 at 7:30 a.m.